

**MINUTES OF THE  
NATURAL RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
February 5, 2001  
Room 305, State Capitol**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Parley Hellewell, Co-Chair  
Rep. Michael R. Styler, Co-Chair  
Sen. Ron Allen  
Sen. Bill Wright  
Rep. Craig W. Buttars  
Rep. Carl W. Duckworth  
Rep. Ben C. Ferry  
Rep. Fred J. Fife III  
Rep. James R. Gowans  
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson  
Rep. Brent D. Parker  
Rep. Darin G. Peterson

STAFF PRESENT: Steven Allred, Fiscal Analyst  
Vaneean Bitton, Committee Secretary

VISITORS: Attached to and made a part of these minutes

Senator Hellewell called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

**H.B. 217      Appropriation for Horse Care Education (*L. Pace*)**

Rep. Pace requested an appropriation of \$140,000 from ongoing General Funds for Fiscal Year 2002 to Utah State University Extension for an educational program to assist horse owners in providing care for their horses. Dr. Bill Day, Utah State University Horse Specialist, answered questions from the committee.

**MOTION:** Rep. Parker moved to pass the bill out favorably. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Wright and Rep. Johnson absent for the vote. The committee members agreed to place the bill on a priority list.

**H.B. 172      Appropriation for Herd Testing for Johne's Disease (*D. Cox*)**

Rep. Cox requested a one-time appropriation of \$90,000 from the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2001-2002 to the Department of Agriculture and Food for the initial herd testing to prevent and control the spread of Johne's Disease in domestic livestock. Dr. Michael Marshall, State Veterinarian, answered questions from the committee.

**MOTION:** Rep. Styler moved to pass the bill out favorably. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Wright absent for the vote. The committee members agreed to place the bill on a priority list.

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Mr. John Kimball, Director of the **Division of Wildlife Resources**, presented an overview of the division and addressed the subcommittee concerning division issues.

Mr. Allred presented the budget for the Division of Wildlife Resources. He noted that approximately seven percent of the division's budget comes from the General Fund. The remainder of the division's operating revenue comes from the GFR - Wildlife Resources Account, GFR - Wildlife Habitat Account, federal funds, and a small amount of Dedicated Credits.

The following issues for the Division of Wildlife Resources were discussed:

- 2.1 Performance Measures: At the request of the Legislative Process Committee during the 2000 General Session, the Fiscal Analyst's Office prepared a draft Performance-Based Budget (PBB) for the division. The Analyst recommended making performance measures a part of the division's budget hearings.
- 2.2 Impact of Initiative B: The subcommittee discussed the potential impact of Initiative B on the division's federal funds. At this time it is unclear how the federal government would react to division-seized assets being deposited in the Uniform School Fund.

Mr. Allred recommended a total **Operating Budget** for the Division of Wildlife Resources of \$34,204,900 with \$2,482,700 from General Funds. The programs within this division include:

Administration	\$1,524,800
Public Services	4,831,500
Conservation Outreach	1,669,400
Law Enforcement	6,133,900
Habitat Council	2,410,900
Habitat Section	2,546,200
Wildlife Section	6,778,400
Aquatic Section	8,309,800

The committee discussed Hunter Safety Education and requested that the Division of Wildlife Resources research ways to make it more accessible to the public, i.e. some correspondence work with one or two training meetings, more convenient hours for the classes, etc. The committee requested that the details be worked on during interim.

**MOTION:** Rep. Johnson moved to approve the intent language as follows:

*It is the intent of the Legislature that the General Fund Restricted-Wildlife Habitat Account shall be nonlapsing.*

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Wright absent for the vote.

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**MOTION:** Rep. Johnson moved to delete “including raccoons” from the following intent language:

*It is the intent of the Legislature that the Division of Wildlife Resources spend a minimum of \$70,000 from the General Fund Restricted–Wildlife Habitat Account as stated in UCA 23-19-43(5)(a) on control of predators, including raccoons.*

The motion passed with Rep. Ferry and Rep. Styler voting in opposition and Sen. Wright absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Johnson moved to not adopt the intent language as follows:

*It is the intent of the Legislature that the Division of Wildlife Resources, in coordination with the Habitat Council, use \$100,000 from the General Fund Restricted–Wildlife Habitat Account to contribute to projects funded by the Department of natural Resources–Species Protection Account which are consistent with UCA 23-19-43.*

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Wright absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Styler moved to adopt the intent language as follows:

*It is the intent of the Legislature that up to \$500,000 of this budget may be used for big game depredation expense. The Legislature also intends that half of these funds shall be from the General Fund Restricted - Wildlife Resources Account and half from the General Fund. This funding shall be nonlapsing.*

*It is the intent of the Legislature that, ~~if a \$5 deer permit is enacted~~, the Division of Wildlife Resources transfer \$200,000 General Funds to the Department of Agriculture and Food. It is further the intent of the Legislature that \$100,000 of this transfer be used to match funds from local governments in the Predatory Animal Control Program, and \$100,000 be used to supplement the amount required by UCA 4-23-9(2)(a). It is further the intent of the Legislature that the division ~~of Wildlife Resources separately account for an amount equivalent to the difference of revenue collected by the \$5 increase that took effect on January 1, 2001, and the \$200,000 transfer to the Department of Agriculture and Food, and use this account~~ spend a minimum of \$265,000 to improve deer herds according to management plan objectives.*

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Wright absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Parker moved to approve the fees for the Division of Wildlife Resources. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Wright absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Parker moved to approve the intent language as follows:

*It is the intent of the Legislature that Cooperative Environmental Studies funds be nonlapsing.*

*It is the intent of the Legislature that Contributed Research funds be nonlapsing.*

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Wright absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Parker moved to transfer \$3,900 from the Operating Budget back to the Predator Control line item, and \$25,500 from the Operating Budget back to the Reimbursement line item. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Wright absent for the vote.

Mr. Allred recommended a total **Capital Budget** for the Division of Wildlife Resources of \$3,816,000 with \$800,000 from the General Fund. The programs within this division include:

Information and Education	\$9,200
Fisheries	3,800,800
Game Management	6,000

The issue within the Wildlife Resources Capital Budget includes:

2.1: Blue Ribbon Trout Fisheries: The Governor recommends \$500,000 in one-time General Funds to establish blue ribbon trout fisheries in rural counties, improve stream habitat, and purchase public access to private fishing areas.

**MOTION:** Rep. Fife moved to approve the intent language as follows:

*It is the intent of the Legislature that the Division of Wildlife Resources Capital appropriation be nonlapsing.*

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Wright absent for the vote.

Mr. Allred requested that the committee provide him with suggestions on the performance measures discussed so they can be worked on during interim.

Mr. Jim Carter, President of Strawberry Anglers Association, gave a presentation on "Utah Fishing Pressure Breakdown by Water."

**MOTION:** Rep. Gowans moved to tentatively approve the following budgets:

- (A) Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
- (B) Division of Parks and Recreation Capital
- (C) Division of Water Resources with associated intent language
- (D) Division of Wildlife Resources Operating and Capital

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The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Don Peay, Executive Director of Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, suggested a new matching fund program for the division. Co-Chair Hellewell asked Mr. Peay to put together a written proposal to submit to the committee. There were discussions on the Quality Growth Act being modified to accommodate these programs.

**MOTION:** Rep. Parker moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Hellewell adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

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Rep. Michael R. Styler, Co-Chairman

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Sen. Parley Hellewell, Co-Chairman